

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

September 1, 2009

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York was convened in public session at the Town Hall, 7340 South Broadway, Red Hook at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Sue Crane
Councilman James Ross
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman Robert McKeon
Town Clerk Sue McCann

Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

Supervisor Crane welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

HIGHWAY BID OPENING

Supervisor Crane began the Highway Bid opening for the 60" flail mower.

Town Clerk Sue McCann opened the following bids:

Hudson River Tractor Co., LLC
Chatham, NY
John Deere Diamond
Model 5085M & SSF060-C \$54,550

Keil Equipment
Hudson, NY
John Deere Alamo Industrial
Model 5985M \$58,980

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to refer the bids to Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand and Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy for review.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon
	Nays	0	

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

There were no comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane announced that there will be a Battle of the Books regional competition on September 12th at Roy C. Ketchum High School. She read a letter from the Friend's of Red Hook Public Library. Representing the Red Hook Scarlett Letters are Chris Czajka, Patrick Comerford, Jiana Diaz-Kelly, Declan Dwyer-McNulty, Fiona Dwyer-McNulty, Abadie Ludlam, Mathew Mullen-Mechtly, Olivia Popovitch, Elizabeth Ricci, Jesse Rolfe, Lily Shapiro, Danielle Comerford, Patrick Mullen-Mechtly, and Glenn Rothwell. From the Tivoli Storm, Sara Liveccai, Ellie Quinlan, Amanda Maguire, Srirmana Sankar, Grace Weisbecker, Emily Weisbecker, and Charlotte Standefer.

She wished all of the readers luck in the upcoming Battle of the Books.

- Hardscrabble Day will take place on Saturday, September 26th. Lineup for the parade is at the Linden Avenue Middle School at 9:00 a.m. with the parade kicking off at 10 a.m. This year's theme is the "Great Gatsby".
- The Hudson River boat ride will be Friday, September 25th. It is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and tickets are available at the library. There will be a speaker addressing the history of the Hudson River in conjunction with the quadricentennial. The ride is from 7 to 10 p.m.
- Walkway Over the Hudson – the celebration is October 3rd and only busloads will be allowed for the grand opening.

- Hudson Valley Wine and Food Fest will be September 12th and 13th at the Fairgrounds.

Councilman McKeon made various announcements of events occurring throughout the county.

THE BIG READ – LORETTA CAMPAGNA

Supervisor Crane introduced Loretta Campagna, Board member of the Friends of the Red Hook Public Library and Chair of the Big Read Committee.

Ms. Capagna explained the Big Read and how the Town can assist with it. The purpose of the Big Read is to bring partners across the country together to encourage citizens to read for both pleasure and enlightenment. In 2002 programs were created or enhanced to address the challenge of America's declining trend in literature. The Big Read is one of the endeavors. The library received a \$5,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts. The grant was to sponsor a town wide Big Read in the Town of Red Hook. It will be matched with funds from the Friends in/or in kind hours from the Friends. Our Town's Big Read initiative will be from May 15, 2010 to June 19, 2010. They chose F. Scott Fitzgerald's book "The Great Gatsby". She asked the Town's support in the endeavor. The Big Read is an active presence in every state.

Supervisor Crane thanked Ms. Capagna for the packet of information she supplied for the Board to read.

WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON – KARI FEUER

Supervisor Crane introduced Kari Feuer.

Kari Feuer explained that she is the artist that is representing the Town of Red Hook for the opening ceremonies of the Walkway Over the Hudson on October 3rd. They are looking for volunteers to carry flags in the parade and to do the walk. There are five ropes of 25 flags that will need volunteers to carry. The Northern Dutchess Art Studio tour will take place this weekend and she supplied maps for the program. She asked if anyone had ideas for use of the 25 flags after the ceremony.

Supervisor Crane thanked her for her hard work.

MONTGOMERY PLACE

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman McKeon to lead the topic since he suggested that it be on the agenda.

Councilman McKeon wanted a conversation with the Board about the status of Montgomery Place. There has been some talk recently that it is up for sale. He believes the President of Historic Hudson Valley denies the rumor that they are currently putting it up for sale. They hired an attorney to meet with the Intermunicipal Task Force and discuss proposed zoning changes on portions of Montgomery Place, more specifically the orchards. Councilman McKeon thinks the Town would want to explore the status of Montgomery Place. It was his recollection that the house would be opened again in 2010. He understands that there has been some work on the property itself but not on the mansion. If they are intending to reopen in 2010 it looks like it won't be on schedule. He thinks we should check on the status. Red Hook has supported the institution in forbearance of taxes.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if Drayton Grant attended the Task Force meeting.

Councilman Colgan stated that she did attend and it is in Task Force Chair Bill O'Neill's report for the night's meeting. Councilman Colgan is inclined to go to Historic Hudson Valley to let them know of our concerns.

Councilman McKeon will be happy to draw up a letter to Historic Hudson Valley to get an update of their intentions. It would be a good opportunity to have a discussion with them. He is concerned that the Task Force was visited by an attorney representing them who was concerned about proposed zoning changes. It could be an indication of intentions to utilize the property in a fashion that is not consistent with those proposals.

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman McKeon if he is suggesting that the Board send a letter to the State Education Department overseeing museum chartering to inquire as to what the Montgomery Place charter was when it was established.

Councilman McKeon responded just to find out what the status of Montgomery Place is.

Supervisor Crane said she will send a letter, she is not opposed to doing that.

Councilman McKeon has done a lot of research on the issue and is happy to draft the letter.

Supervisor Crane thinks it should come from the Board and she is fine with him drafting the letter. They'll all have input.

STREET LIGHTING REQUEST

Supervisor Crane referred to a letter she received from Linda King, who lives on Carriage Drive, requesting that the Board consider installing a light on the corner of Carriage Drive and Meadow Drive. It is very dark, especially in winter. Supervisor Crane looked into the status of the corner and it is within our lighting district. We could, by simple request of Central Hudson, get a low wattage installed on the existing poll. She said before doing that we might put announcement out so that people who live in that community can weigh in on whether or not they wish to have a light installed. She asked the Board if they agreed to ask the Town Clerk to send a notice indicating that the Town Board is considering installing a light and that we would have public comment on that at the next to Town Board meetings. We would then make a decision based upon that public comment. There would be a cost to the Town to support the lighting from that day forward. She does not think we would pay for installation. It was decided to get public comment before that decision is made.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Building Department - Supervisor Crane reported to those who live on Hapeman Hill Road that the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer contacted a bank that holds title to a recently evicted home. That bank is responding to the Town's concerns and was supposed to have removed all of the rubbish and debris at the property yesterday. Bob Fennel and Steve Cole were back in touch with the bank today. Supervisor Crane contacted our Attorney for the Town, if we get no response from the bank as late as tomorrow, the Attorney will contact the bank and see if that gets their attention. She understands the property is a total mess and she apologized to the residents in that area. There seems to be a period of time after eviction that the Town can take legal action to remove what has been left on site.

Dog Control – Councilwoman Strawinski met with Cecil Moore and went over his job description. She edited it and will send the final draft to Town Clerk Sue McCann.

Purchasing – Councilman Colgan reported on the purchasing activity for the period August 3, 2009 to September 1, 2009 that was prepared by Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy. During that period 16 purchase orders were issued in the amount of \$7,432.76. The largest was \$2,048 to Andlynn Construction for the repair of the north side of the building that was damaged by a motorist accident. An insurance claim has been filed by our insurance company for reimbursement. Purchasing Agent Kudzy is working on an RFQ for alterations to the Justice office. He expects to get 3 or 4 quotes for the job. The server we purchased from Dell has arrived and we are waiting for installation. Proposals for the Water District Operator are expected to go out this month.

Recycling – Supervisor Crane read a memo from T.J. Hackett, the Recycling Coordinator, who informed her that Dan O'Connell is going to be on medical leave for an undetermined amount of time. He wants to replace him with Nicole Fowler. Supervisor Crane explained it is a Board appointment and her application seems to be within reason. T.J. Hackett knows her and wants it to take effect as soon as possible, they are short handed. Supervisor Crane passed the application to the Board to look over and they will get back to this at the end of the meeting.

Water Report – Councilman Ross gave the August 2009 monthly report prepared by Water Department Chair Hank VanParys. The micron filters are operating satisfactorily. Ongoing hydrant maintenance will suffice, the radio transmitter approach has been accepted and the plans to complete by September 11th. The Ross Valve is being put back in service. It was repaired at

a cost of \$1,564. They are awaiting cap repair of Well 1, they have to find and disconnect an old galvanized main on the south side of Aspinwall and they believe that the lead/copper testing is done. That will be verified at the September 10th meeting.

Planning Board – Councilwoman Strawinski referred to documents with regard to a Certificate of Appropriateness application fee. Apparently there have been more than a few Certificates of Appropriateness applications and it is something we haven't charged a fee for. Betty Mae VanParys suggested to Councilwoman Strawinski that we look into what other area communities are doing. Councilwoman Strawinski looked into it and saw that some communities are charging fees, mostly a \$50.00 fee. She thought that could be put on the next agenda for discussion. She has not heard from the Chair yet about her opinion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ag. & Open Space – Councilman McKeon reported that they reviewed the proposed zoning regulations in the Agricultural Business District and they came up with numerous suggestions for changes or modifications. They are holding an additional meeting the second week of September. Supervisor Crane asked Councilman McKeon to have them send in their minutes.

CAC – Councilwoman Strawinski reported that the CAC will participate in Hardscrabble Day. They would like to provide recycling containers to promote bottle and can recycling that day. They are also considering setting up water bottle refill stations where attendees would be able to fill their water bottles for free with Village water. Catherine O'Reilly, Bard biologist, will speak at the next CAC meeting on her work on water quality testing of the Sawkill. They'll discuss ways in which she and the CAC could work together in the future. Comments on scenic roads were forwarded to the Planning Board who continues to review the topic. It is their understanding that the Board is interested in hearing a presentation on NYSERDA's existing programs to increase home energy efficiency. Pat Courtney of Hudson Valley Smart Communities is available to give a talk at next week's Board meeting. Councilman McKeon asked if Pat Courtney could be on the agenda for next week's meeting. Supervisor Crane said a 15 to 20 minute presentation would be good as of this moment. Councilwoman Strawinski continued reporting that their next meeting is September 9th at 7:00 p.m. and updates on ICLEI work, etc. will be on the agenda. With regard to the budget request for the recycling containers, Councilwoman Strawinski read a letter from CAC Chair Brenda Cagle asking for approval of expenditures of \$347.34 for five recycling frames and 100 bags. There are funds in their line items to cover the cost. The containers will not only be used at Hardscrabble Day but also at other community events. Councilwoman Strawinski thinks this is very important for our Hardscrabble activities. In the past, various groups supplied water bottles which may not get recycled.

Councilman McKeon has no problem with approving the expenditure.

Supervisor Crane explained that she spoke to CAC Chair Brenda Cagle and they have the money in their budget for this. Supervisor Crane could support the expenditure.

Councilman Ross approves of the expenditure since they have money in their budget.

Councilman Colgan has no problem with it either.

Supervisor Crane will let Brenda know of the Boards approval tomorrow.

Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Strawinski has a lunch meeting with a couple of members of that committee this week and will have more information at the next business meeting.

Intermunicipal Task Force – Task Force Chair Bill O'Neill reported that the Task Force reviewed developments in the joint Town/Village of Red Hook Sewer Project. He explained the efforts of all involved in the financing for the project. The Task Force examined the Tasciotti request for re-zoning. There are no constraints on the property in question and the whole sight could be developed. They will advise the Town Board by letter in early September as to its recommendations including whether the request is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, the Centers & Greenspace Plan, and considering all possible uses for the property. With Greenplan, Inc. the Task force also reviewed the ongoing preparation of the Environmental Impact Study for

the CGP, discussing the build out analysis for the proposed Agricultural Business District (ABD), with no action alternative, and for the south TND. With Drayton Grant, Esq. present on behalf of Montgomery Place and the Edgewood Club of Tivoli, the Task Force with Greenplan, Inc. reviewed language in the ABD zoning amendments proposed in the CGP. Montgomery Place is requesting that certain parcels of its property be removed from the ABD, and/or that a 'Cultural Facility' be permitted as a special use in that district, and that greater flexibility be allowed on those parcels in the ABD. The Edgewood Club of Tivoli is requesting that the list of permitted uses in the ABD be amended to allow expansion of an existing golf course. These reviews are continuing. In September the Task Force will address the question of how to handle Conservation Easements in the Town.

Roads & Traffic Safety Committee – Supervisor Crane asked Councilman McKeon if there were any developments on the Roads & Traffic Safety Committee. Councilman McKeon responded that he is still searching for senior citizens who are interested in joining. He has six names so far and would like to finish this in the next couple of weeks and get it started.

St. Margaret's Committee – Linda Keeling reported that financially they are still having problems with grants for the roof. Paula Schoonmaker is trying to get that solved. They are hoping to get the grounds looking a little better by getting soil and grass seed in. They are progressing on the fund raiser using the sketch that Dennis Griffin put together. He's also done additional work for them and put a lot of time and effort into this. They are hoping to attract people in moving the project along.

Supervisor Crane explained that they hope to apply to CDBG for funding for that roof. She believes we are entitled to apply for up to \$150,000 and the last figure we had for roof restoration was about \$90,000. One of the priorities is historic preservation this year so she hopes this lines up to be competitive. She will be talking with them about our options.

Trails Committee – Councilwoman Strawinski received a report from Chairman Howie Callies. She reported that Ruth Oja's Wetlands Walk Dedication plaque has been ordered. The committee added the color coded Red Hook trails to the Dutchess County map obtained by Susan Gilnack. She will contact the County to see if they can add the trails to the map without doing GPS recording. It could be posted on the Town's website, the NYS Trails website and on the Dutchess County website. Posting it would allow downloading and printing of the map in color to clearly show the different trails. The sidewalk on the west side of Route 9 to Hannaford is complete but it does not provide easy access to St. Margaret's because there is no sidewalk on the east side. Further study is needed to determine the best and safest way for pedestrians to cross Route 9. The sidewalk to the Recreation Park will be done in the future to complete the connection from the Village to the Recreation Park. Clean up day is September 19th and the committee asked if volunteers could donate part of the day to do further clearing of the St. Margaret's site. Bard students could assist in the removal of the collapsed shed behind the building and do the necessary photographic and video recording of the process. Doug Strawinski will discuss this with the St. Margaret's Committee.

Tree Commission – Nancy Guski reported that they will be present at Hardscrabble Day with all things tree related. They met with Budget Officer Rose Rider and did their part to trim their budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Supervisor Crane has had correspondence from a resident in College Park who was interested to know if the speed limit in College Park could be reduced from the 30 MPH speed limit which is applicable throughout the Town. Supervisor Crane looked into this and the 20 MPH sign in that area is not an official Town highway posting. Legally the Town may not post any lower than 30 MPH on Town roads. We did post a sign, "Children At Play", and ordered additional patrols because there was a fair amount of concern from people in that area about speeding. We did receive a letter thanking us for our efforts in that regard, and there was a letter to the editor. It was nice to see them recognize the Highway Department who are unsung heroes working behind the scenes a lot of the time.

- Central Hudson warns us that applications for temporary attachments on utility poles may only be done through contacting Central Hudson. Permission must be given before using their poles.

Councilman McKeon made copies of an article regarding the pension funding deficit that local municipalities will face in upcoming years. The Comptroller's Office came out with the expected increase contributions to the State system. It is a dramatic increase of 7.4% to 11.5% of the payroll in 2011. He feels this will have a significant impact on the budget a year and a half from now. The information is not in yet but we may have incurred revenue shortfalls as much as \$100,000 and we will have very difficult budget decisions. He suggests looking at a three year plan and how we are going to wean ourselves from drawing on our rainy day funds and try and meet these increased obligations coming to us from the State.

Supervisor Crane asked if the Board agrees to the new hire for the Recycling Center.

The Board agreed to the hiring of the new Recycling Center employee.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Linda Keeling asked if the Board will discuss her communication.

Supervisor Crane replied that they Board will move into Executive Session for that discussion.

Susan Simon noticed that the crosswalk by the Post Office, the middle of Town, and by the bank are practically non-existent and she wanted to alert the proper authorities.

Supervisor Crane will talk to Red Hook Village Mayor Cohen about them.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to go Executive Session for discussing a personnel matter regarding a particular person at 8:45 p.m.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon
 Nays 0

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to close the Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon
 Nays 0

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman McKeon moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon
 Nays 0

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk